IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims, as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for detecting and counting the microorganisms in a sample comprising the steps of:

a) selectively enriching the microorganism sought in the sample,

b) conditioning ~~of the aforementioned~~ said microorganism,

c) immunomagnetically concentrating the conditioned microorganism,

d) fluorescently labeling the concentrated microorganism, and

e) detecting and analyzing the fluorescence.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the enrichment step is carried out in a composition comprising:

sodium pyruvate at a concentration selected from the group consisting of ~~ranging~~ between 1 and 20 g/L, ~~preferably~~ between 1 and 10 g/L, and ~~more preferably~~ between 4 to 6 g/L,

sodium thiosulfate at a concentration selected from the group consisting of ~~ranging~~ between 0.5 and 5 g/L, ~~preferably~~ between 0.5 and 3 g/L, and ~~still more preferably~~ approximately 2 g/L,

catalase at a concentration selected from the group consisting of ~~ranging~~ between 500 and 20,000 μ/L, ~~preferably~~ between 2,000 and 8,000 μ/L, and ~~still more preferably~~ approximately 5,000 μ/L.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein ~~the aforementioned~~ said composition comprises in addition at least one antibiotic.

4. (currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the conditioning step is an induction step for at least one enzymatic activity specific to the microorganism sought, comprising adding to the microorganism's enrichment medium at least one non-fluorescent substrate specific to the aforementioned enzyme or enzymes.

5. (original) A method according to claim 4, wherein steps a) and b) can be carried out simultaneously.

6. (original) A method according to claim 4 or 5, wherein step c) can take place before step b) or step c) can take place after step d).

7. (currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the conditioning step, in the case where the microorganism sought is a Gram-positive bacteria, comprises in addition an induction step for at least one surface antigen characteristic of the microorganism sought, comprising adding to the microorganism's enrichment, medium yeast extract at a concentration selected from the group consisting of ~~ranging~~ between 5 and 50 g/L, ~~preferably~~ between 10 and 20 g/L, and ~~still more preferably~~ approximately 10 g/L.

8. (currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 7~~, wherein the immunomagnetic concentration step comprises the steps of:

a) placing the microorganism sought, present in the conditioning medium, in contact with an antibody directed against an antigen specific to the microorganism, the aforementioned antibody being conjugated with a magnetic bead,

b) separating the bead-antibody-microorganism complexes from the medium, and

c) separating the microorganism from the rest of the complex.

9. (original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the antibody conjugated with a magnetic bead is directed against an antibody that is itself directed against an antigen specific to the microorganism sought.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the magnetic beads have a diameter that is ~~ranging~~ between 1 and 20 μm, or ~~preferably~~ between 2 and 8 μm.

11. (currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 10~~, wherein fluorescent labeling of the microorganisms sought is carried out by adding to the medium containing ~~the aforementioned~~ said microorganisms at least one substrate comprising a part specific to the enzymatic activity to be revealed and one label part.

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein the label ~~part consists of~~ is a fluorogenic label excited at 488 nm ~~chosen~~ selected from the group

consisting of ~~comprising~~ the xanthenes, acridines, phycobiliproteins, cyanine, and esculin.

13. (currently amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~or 12~~, wherein the substrate part specific to the enzymatic activity to be revealed is selected from the group consisting of ~~chosen among~~ a fatty acid, a monosaccharide, a phosphate, ~~and/or~~ and a sulfate.

14. (currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 13~~, wherein the detection and analysis of fluorescence ~~that make possible the numeration of the microorganisms~~ are carried out by a technique ~~chosen~~ selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of flow cytometry, filtration cytometry and fluorescence microscopy.

15. (currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 14~~, wherein steps a), b), c), d), and e) ~~as defined in claim 1~~ are preceded by a filtration step for the sample to be analyzed.

16. (currently amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the filtration is carried out by means of a filter whose porosity is a size selected from the group consisting of ~~ranges~~ between 20 and 150 microns, ~~preferably~~ between 30 and 100 microns, and ~~still more preferably~~ approximately 63 microns.

17. (currently amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the filtration is carried out on a membrane presenting a porosity selected from the group consisting of

~~ranging~~ between 0.2 and 10 μm, preferably between 0.2 and 5 μm, and ~~still more preferably~~ between 0.2 and 0.5 um.

18. (currently amended) A selective enrichment medium for a microorganism sought in a sample comprising:

a nutrient composition making the multiplication of ~~the aforementioned~~ said oorganism possible, and

a selective revivification composition for ~~the aforementioned~~ said microorganism, wherein it comprises:

sodium pyruvate at a concentration ~~ranging~~ selected from the group consisting of between 1 and 20 g/L, ~~preferably~~ between 1 and 10 g/L, and ~~more preferably~~ between 4 to 6 g/L,

sodium thiosulfate at a concentration ~~ranging~~ selected from the group consisting of between 0.5 and 5 g/L, ~~preferably~~ between 0.5 and 3 g/L, and ~~still more preferably~~ approximately 2 g/L,

catalase at a concentration ~~ranging~~ selected from the group consisting of between 500 and 20,000 μ/L, ~~preferably~~ between 2,000 and 8,000 g/L, and ~~still more preferably~~ approximately 5,000 μ/L.

19. (currently amended) An enrichment medium according to claim 18, which ~~wherein it~~ further comprises at least one antimicrobial agent.

20. (currently amended) A kit ~~with which to implement the method of~~ for detecting and counting ~~of a microorganism~~ microorganisms ~~according to one of the claims 1 to 17,~~ comprising:

a) an enrichment medium according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~ in a liquid or dehydrated form, a plastic bag lined with a full-surface filter presenting a porosity of approximately 63 μm,

b) magnetic beads ~~as defined in claim 8~~ conjugated to an antibody specific for an antigen on said microorganism,

c) one or several substrates ~~as defined in claim 11~~ in a lyophilized form,

d) ~~appropriate~~ solvents,

wherein said substrates of part (c) comprises a part specific to enzymatic activity to be revealed and a label.